

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE:	
REVIEW OF LEVEL PAYMENT PLAN RULES	DOCKET NO. NOI-03-3

ORDER SCHEDULING WORKSHOP

(Issued January 21, 2004)

On July 25, 2003, the Utilities Board (Board) issued an order opening an inquiry to review the level payment plan rules found at paragraphs 199 IAC 19.4(11)"e" and 20.4(12)"e." In the order, the Board indicated that there had been significant differences in the application of these rules by the utilities and that some of those interpretations resulted in monthly payments that were subject to dramatic swings. Additionally, the Board allowed Atmos Energy Corporation (Atmos) to use a rolling-12-month calculation to establish a monthly payment. The Board directed interested persons who wished to participate in this docket to file certain information with the Board.

Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative, MidAmerican Energy Company, Interstate Power and Light Company, Aquila, Inc. d/b/a Aquila Networks, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, the Consumer Advocate Division of the Department of Justice, and Atmos filed to participate in this inquiry.

In the July 25, 2003, order, the Board directed rate-regulated utilities to provide a sample of level payment accounts, including consumption and billing history, for a 24-month period. Board staff has analyzed that information and has requested additional information where necessary. The Board is now scheduling a workshop to share the results of its analysis and recommendations for changes to the level payment rules. The workshop will be held on March 31, 2004. Participants will be provided a summary of the analysis and proposed amendments prior to the workshop. Questions concerning this inquiry should be made to Chuck Seel at (515) 281-5618 or by email at Chuck.Seel@iub.state.ia.us.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

A workshop is scheduled for March 31, 2004, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Board's conference rooms 3 and 4 located at 350 Maple Street, Des Moines, Iowa. Persons with disabilities who require assistive services or devices to observe or participate should contact the Utilities Board at (515) 281-5256 in advance of the scheduled date to request that appropriate arrangements be made.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Diane Munns

/s/ Mark O. Lambert

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper
Executive Secretary

/s/ Elliott Smith

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 21st day of January, 2004.